



**Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting, City Hall Conference Room 1
Minutes**

Date: August 11, 2015 6:30-8:30pm

Council Members: Julie Noble (Chair), Emilie Hauser (Vice-Chair), Kevin McEvoy (Secretary). Elizabeth Broad (unable to attend), Jean Jacobs, Lynn Johnson, Casey Schwarz
Guest: David Paul Weisner

I. Welcome Guests and Public Comment: The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm. David who is from Town of Esopus, was informed during the minute review concerning the Mile a Minute weed at Shaupeneak Ridge discussed at the last meeting. David further provided comment and feedback during the meeting on various maps.

II. Minutes: Upon motion made by Emilie and seconded by Casey the Council members present unanimously approved the minutes as amended to the July meeting.

III. Old Business

- a. **Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)** - Special Guest Matthew Akin, mapping consultant attended to review all draft NRI maps. Prior to the meeting, Matt, Julie and Kevin took a two-hour tour of Kingston visiting various sites, which Matt has mapped for the NRI project.

Julie began the review with an explanation of the project background to date and indicated that Laura Heady from the Hudson River Estuary Program is permitting maps from the Habitat Summary, which she prepared, to be used as part of the NRI. These maps include Regional Context, Major Ecological Features, Streams and Watersheds, Wetlands, Forests, Shoreline Habitat, Hudson River Shoreline Type and Shoreline Habitat at Mouth of Rondout Creek.

The review included the following NRI maps:

1. **Aerial Maps and Base Map:** The legends including municipal boundaries, principal and minor arterials, active and inactive rail lines, Kingston streams, water bodies, wetlands were discussed. Comment was made about the consistency of title on the aerial maps. Further discussion concerned whether to show all city streets in the base map or in specific maps such as soils.
2. **Bedrock geology:** This map was reviewed without significant comment.
3. **Surficial geology:** This map was reviewed without significant comment
4. **Soils including hydric soils:** It was discussed that the title to this map should be changed to Soils while still showing hydric soils on the map (presently in yellow) but not in the title. Hydric soil can be defined as soil that is permanently or seasonally saturated by water, as found in wetlands. Comments included the need to show all streets in the soil map.

5. **Combined Bus Map:** Comment included considering including the Trailways bus station. Overlapping of service between county and city was noted.
6. **Recreational Amenities:** David and Jean suggested that the visual interpretation could be more user or visitor friendly possibly using icons rather than text especially if the map is to be intended for or adapted for tourism purposes. Consensus among the council members was to keep the text but to utilize text wrapping to avoid a cluttered appearance. A comment concerned having an inset of Hasbrouck Park to show amenities and trails at that site as well as the nearby High Road path between Rondout and Ponckhockie. A further discussion concerned whether to show former or inactive parks such as Clearwater Park or Lawton Park.
7. **Forsyth Park:** Comments included labeling the park map in a more visually appealing manner and considering inclusion of trails and the basketball backstop.
8. **Kingston Point Park:** Discussions centered on labeling Rotary Park, the actual park boundary as opposed to the city property lot lines and inclusion of trails.
9. **Forest Patch:** Observation indicated that this map is similar to Laura Heady's Habitat Summary forest map but shows vacant parcels as additional information. It was also discussed including the streets on this map.
10. **Regional Watersheds:** Milone and MacBroom have mapped the Rondout watershed, which appears on the NRI map. The principal watershed delineations appear derived from the US geological Survey maps (USGS) with the exception of an inter-basin transfer from the Esopus to the Rondout shown by Milone and MacBroom. The possibility of additional maps for the Hudson and Esopus sub-watersheds will be investigated. It was mentioned that labels for areas flowing into the Hudson directly and flowing directly into the Esopus, directly into the Rondout and the inter-basin transfer from the Esopus to the Rondout should be added.
11. **Impervious Surfaces:** impervious surfaces show up as red on the map with black as vacant parcels making this a more difficult map to read. This map needs interpretation.
12. **Historic:** Kevin discussed open items which include the need to create layers to differentiate categories of resources and assets being mapped similar to the mapping done by Ulster County for the Historic Preservation Landmarks Commission several years ago which map has incomplete data. If time permits we can add additional resources of local interest not shown in other data sets.
13. **Water Quality:** Discussion revolved around DEC data such as spills and bulk storage. Open spills and bulk storage are depicted however the legend still includes an "all spills layer" that appears to have all data except for one location on Broadway in the civic center area removed. Salt storage, junkyards and landfills should be included.
14. **Open Space with Vacant Parcels:** This map was not reviewed.
15. **Summary of comments from site tour:** Julie, Kevin and Matt conducted a site tour prior to this meeting as mentioned above and offered the following comments not included in the above mapping review.
 - i. **Trails:** Discussion concerned how best to include trails with a tentative consensus to include trails in the individual parks aforementioned and to include the company path and possibly High Rd and Yeomans Mill on the historic map.

- ii. **“Wish List’ Maps:** If Matt’s contract with Kingston Land Trust is extended as discussed elsewhere herein, the following maps may be possible:
 - (a) A Working Landscapes Map to concentrate on urban agriculture.
 - (b) A Green Infrastructure Map for which Julie has information.
 - (c) A Viewshed Map which may include Hasbrouck Park summit, Kingston Point Park and Beach, Presidents Place, the Company Path overlook, West Chestnut St and the Council Chambers.
 - (d) A Cultural Resources and Public Amenities Map which may include museums, cultural institutions, the library and other public amenities such as the marinas, ferry, excursion docks and kayak areas not already mapped with neighborhood labeling either on this or another map to include neighborhood names such as Wilbur, Ponckhockie, Uptown, Midtown, Rondout, Albany Avenue and Roosevelt Park.
 - (e) Other maps which could be included and which we have as PDF files on the City website include a Zoning Map, LWRP/Heritage Area Map and a Ward Map. Tax parcels are a possible addition to the base map
 - (f) Steep slopes: While this information may included in the Major Ecological Features map from the Habitat Summary, by Laura Heady as Crest and Ledge Habitat, a topographic map may be useful to include.
- b. **NRI Grant Update:** No decision has been announced yet.
- c. **Extension of Matt’s Contract:** Upon motion made by Julie and seconded by Jean the Council members present unanimously passed a resolution expressing support for the Kingston Land Trust extending the contract for Matt Akin for a period of up to three months.

IV. Announcements: Jean announced and will speak at the Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 11 of 2015 (A Local Law Establishing The Ulster County Animal Abuse Registry) to be held on Wednesday, August 12.

http://ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/272-15_5.pdf.

V. Adjournment: Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Lynn the Council members present unanimously resolved to adjourn at 9:10 pm.

Mission: Ensure the conservation of the City of Kingston’s natural resources and the enhancement and protection of its environment while fostering unified action on environmental matters.